AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

OLIGARCHY AGAIN AT WORK

San Francisco, April 2.—In commenting on the actions of what it terms "Colorado's Obedient Legislature," the Bulletin of this city says:

"Some day there will be another coal miners' strike in Colorado. The lower house of the legislature of that state, which passed with the abolish Judge Lindsey's juvenile court, has been grinding out laws to make it easy for the mine operators to start out this strike when it comes. One law makes it illegal to make a speech or publish a newspaper article 'tending to incite riot,' a form of words certain to be used by any bought judge to suppress any utterance, however peaceable, that are unfriendly to the dominant powers. Another law makes it a felony to 'attack' a member of the national guard, which means that it will be a felony to resist one, no matter what he does. Colorado's national guard, during the recent troubles, included the professional gun men, in the pay of the mine owners, and they created a situation in which no citizen had rights as against them, between resisting or being deprived of all their civil rights, being driven out, being killed, and even being murdered.

"A third law erects the small-potato militia officer into a power in the land by making it a misdemeanor to refuse to obey his orders. Last year one officer in the Colorado militia struck an unarmed and defenseless prisoner the head of a rifle, the butt of a musket and killed him; and such men will represent law in the coal fields if this bill becomes a law.

"Not reading between the lines of the short dispatch describing these acts of a peaceful, orderly people, no one might be led to believe that Colorado was trying to prevent bloodshed from the curse of violence. No impression could be more false. Every citizen of Colorado must know that such laws merely give one set of men power to use violence against another set. It is class legislation, and though, like most class legislation that is really dangerous, it does not come within the range of the constitutional prohibitions.

"We shall see more history made in that state, and the last thing to be hoped is that it will not be bloody, like the history of the past year, but instead an irresistible up-welling of a determined people, resolved to govern themselves and to have justice, and to have peace."

FORM "BLUE CROSS LEAGUES."

Tacoma, Wash., April 2.—Organizations of "Blue Cross leagues," composed of children of unionists, are being formed in this state. The purpose is to interest the little ones in the principles of trade unionism. Each member signs a card with the following declaration:

I believe in union labor. Because the union helps my father to get a living wage, and to work shorter hours, and these help him to provide a more comfortable home for my mother, my brothers and sisters, and for me. Because the union wants all children to be kept in school and at play, and not be driven into sweatshops and factories during school age. Because the union is fair to its employer, treatment, and I believe in fairness in plus, work, wages and in everything. Because I grow up to be a man, a wage-earner, I intend to become a member of a union.

URGES HUMANE LAWS.

Sacramento, Cal., April 2.—"These gentlemen here are before you with the same old plea," declared Secretary Paul Scharrenberg of the State Federation of Labor to a legislative committee now considering beneficial mining laws, which are opposed by the operators. "The change would cost money" is the argument used against the Harris bill, which would compel companies to place dust-killing devices on their machine drills, to provide that no one had to kill the poor smoke, as a protection to the health of the miners.

"When union miners declared they would have to close down their properties if the bill passed, it was then that the gag unionism called attention to the familiar cry of those who oppose remedial legislation.

LUCKY LIFE SAVERS.

Washington, April 2.—Because a provision in the new law creating the coast guard escaped the eagle eye of congressmen and newspapers, the old men of the old life-saving service will be retired on a three-quarter pay basis, which will give them more money than they drew while in active service. The comptroller of the treasury has ruled that the three-quarter retirement pay must be calculated on a yearly basis. The surfmen ordinarily worked but six to eight months a year and were paid on a monthly basis only when they worked. The comptroller says that their retirement pay cannot be calculated upon the basis of the time or a part of the year but must be paid on full 12 months.

WILL PENSION MOTHERS.

Oklahoma City, Okla., April 2.—A mothers' pension law was passed the last acts of the Oklahoma legislature. The bill provides for the partial support of widowed mothers, whose husband, or prisoners or in a state institution for the insane, and for single women and widows who are the mothers of children under the age of 14 years. The allowance provided for shall not exceed $10 per month when she has but one child the age of 14 years, and $15 per month when more than one child, but shall not exceed more than $10 per month for the first child and $5 per month for each of the other children. Only certain counties are included in the law.

CARPENTERS ASKING FOR MORE.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 3.—Carpenters in this city believe they will be successful in wage scale negotiations. This new rate calls for 45 cents per hour the first year, $2.1-2 cents the second, and 55 cents for the third for outside work. For inside work, or mill men, will be: 48 cents the first year and 50 for the second and third. Several employers have already signed the new scale.

UNIONS ARE NOT TRUSTS.

Ann Arbor, Mich., April 2.—Last week debating teams of the University of Michigan defeated the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wis., and the University of Illinois in this city on the question whether unions should be exempt from construction as combinations in restraint of trade.

The Michigan men took the affirmative and were decided winners in both cases.

SHORT HOURS IS BEST GAIN

Indianapolis, April 3.—In urging an observance of April 1 as the eight-hour day anniversary by the members of the United Mine Workers' union, President White, Vice President Hayes, and Secretary-Treasurer Green say:

"The attainment of the eight-hour workday can well be chronicled as one of the greatest achievements of our movement. It requires no stretch of the imagination to remember the days before we gained recognition, when the followers of our craft worked ten, twelve and fourteen hours per day—in fact, any number of hours the company wished them to work.

"We need not say that if it were not for the power of organized effort that the naive workers today would be working the same number of hours they worked in the days of old.

"For instance in all the industries where there is no organization the workers are forced to toil an unlimited number of hours each day. This irregular condition is responsible practically all of the non-union mining fields of the land, and is one of the reasons why the coal market is oftentimes overstocked, causing many idle days and poor wages to our people.

"By persistent agitation and education we look forward to the day when such conditions will no longer exist through the medium of our union."

The eight-hour day has been in effect in the central competitive field since April 1, 1898, and since that time has been established in all the well organized mining fields of this country.

PLEADS TO UNMUZZLE WORKERS.

Sacramento, Cal., April 2.—Unionists are pleading to the legislature to kill a bill providing that cement shall be packed in dustproof containers. It is shown that the measure, if compelled to meet, will face with guards to protect their throats and nostrils from infection and disease. At one of the hearings on the bill, Dr. Hart, a San Francisco longshoreman, told the legislative committee: "The superboard of San Francisco has been compelled to unmuzzle the dogs of that city because the muzzles were interfering with business. We hope you, in the name of humanity, to unmuzzle the cement workers of California."

One physician told the committee that cement dust permanently injures the eyes, nose, throat and skin of the man who has to work in it, and that it produces diseases such as catarrh, asthma, Bright's disease, and even blindness. A big body of cement manufacturers oppose the bill. If it passes, the dustproof containers will cost more.

WILL INVOKE REFERENDUM.

Seattle, Wash., April 2.—A meeting of trade unionists and organized labor men, held in this city last night, arranged to invoke the referendum on several measures passed by the last legislature. The bills emanculating the referendum will be given special attention. They were vetoed by the governor and passed over his veto by the two houses. These bills are alleged to "facilitate" the referendum, but in fact they are for the purpose of making it impossible to obstruct. One plan to "facilitate," as provided in the bills, denies to more than one the right to circulate petitions, which will be placed in the hands of registration officials before whom citizens must appear if they favor submitting a proposal to the people.

RAILROADS BROKE PROMISES

Harrisburg, Pa., April 3.—As part of their campaign against the repeal of the full crew law for railroads, representatives of the railroad brotherhoods have made public the methods employed by the railroads in their successful fight last year in which the Missouri full crew law repealed by a referendum vote. The workers about the long ballot were "fooled" with constitutional amendments, and then the cry was heard all over the state, "Vote 'no' on everything and be safe." The farmer was promised lower freight rates, which never came. Cold supplies would be purchased, the worker was told wages would be raised, and the cry was unanimous for the general era of prosperity would follow.

LOW WAGES FOR GIRLS.

Albany, N. Y., April 3.—At a hearing on the bill to create a commission to inquire into the wages of women and minors and make the facts public, Mrs. Florence Kelley, of the Consumers' league, before the legislative committee, told of the factory commission, from which source the bill came, declaring that some wages paid girls in a department store girls in the state receive less than $3 a week.

Mrs. Florence Kelley, representing the National Consumers' league, believed that no class is so rapidly increasing as that which is made up between 16 and 20 years who are engaged in occupations. She favored giving these girls the necessary money to maintain their health.

LUDLOW'S ANNIVERSARY.

Denver, Colo., April 3.—Officers of United Mine Workers' union, district, No. 15, call attention to the fact that April 20 will be the first anniversary of the Ludlow massacre, when a company of Colorado's militiamen, recruited from the operators' paid guards and gunmen, attacked and burned the miners' tent colony at Ludlow, Colo., killing twenty men, women, and children. Special literature, including the story of the United Mine Workers' union, and others, will be distributed, at this time, that workers may learn the sufferings of those who stood for trades unionism.

SECURES HEAVY DAMAGES.

Pottsville, Pa., April 2.—Mrs. Annie Conway has been awarded the sum of $10,000 from the Pottsville Union Traction company for the death of her husband, a railroad conductor, who fell through a bridge that was being repaired by the company. The corporation's attorneys contended in court that complainant could not demand a second compensation, as she had accepted $1,000 from the bridge contractors.

PLASTERERS RAISE WAGES.

Detroit, Mich., April 3.—Job printers in this city are asking for an increase, basing their new wage scale, which carries a $2 weekly increase the first year and a $1 increase the second year. The old rate was $19.

SIGNS EDUCATION BILL.

Austin, Tex., April 2.—Governor Ferguson has signed the compulsory education bill and made unionists of this state are in high glee at the successful outcome of their long fight on behalf of Texas children.

RECORD OF REMEDIAL LEGISLATION PASSED BY SIXTY-THIRD CONGRESS

Washington, April 3.—Officers of the American Federation of Labor have compiled the following record of remedial legislation by the Sixty-third Congress, which adjourned, sine die, last month:

Measures of Interest to Labor Enacted.

Organizations of labor and farmers taken from the purview of the anti-trust act.

Limitation of the use, and prevention of the issuance of the writ of injunction in labor disputes.

Legislation defining and restricting punishment for alleged contempts of injunction writs.

Department of justice prohibited from using anti-trust appropriation funds to prosecute labor and farmers' organizations under the anti-trust act. First session.

Department of justice prohibited from using anti-trust appropriation funds to prosecute labor and farmers' organizations under the anti-trust act. Second session.

Department of justice prohibited from using anti-trust appropriation funds to prosecute labor and farmers' organizations under the anti-trust act. Third session.

Passage of seamen's law, abolishing involuntary servitude; providing better treatment of seamen and improving the safety provisions on vessels at sea.

Old conciliation, mediation and arbitration act repealed. New act passed with permanent officials appointed to administer it in behalf of railroad employes engaged in interstate traffic.

Eight-hour law enacted for women and child workers of the District of Columbia. Decided constitutional March 12, 1915, by Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

Eight-hour law passed for employes under the Alaska coal land act.

Public construction of Alaska railroad.

Compensation for injuries act extended to postoffice employes.

Industrial education provided with appropriations for farmers and rural residents under the agricultural extension act.

Taylor system, stop-watch and speeding-up methods in United States arsenals prohibited.

Taylor system, stop-watch and speeding-up methods in United States navy yards, gun factories and torpedo stations prohibited.

Piecework prohibited in postoffice department, Washington, D. C.

Public construction of battleships, transports and other vessels in United States navy yards, extended. Repairs to vessels of the navy to be made in governmental instead of private yards. Schedule would assured to employes of government navy yards.

Licensed officers, such as masters, mates and pilots, guaranteed right to quit, and protected when reporting defects of their vessels to government inspectors.

Bureau of mines act extended and strengthened. Ten new experiment stations and seven new safety stations provided.

Industrial investigation of industrial dispute in coal fields of West Virginia, whereby peace was restored; the eight-hour day secured; check weighmen provided, and 10 per cent increase in wages gained—right of organization guaranteed and other improved working conditions included.

Postoffice employes—annual promotion measure; notwithstanding the postmaster general's effort to substitute therefor a permanent promotion.

Eight-hour law for postoffice clerks and carriers retained, notwithstanding the unremitting the effort of the postmaster general to change radically.

Letter carriers' salaries restored, notwithstanding the effort of the postmaster general to reduce the pay of the letter carriers, known as collectors, from $1,200 per year.

Locomotive boiler inspection act extended to cover locomotive engines and tenders.

Leave of absence with pay to employes of government printing office extended from 26 to 30 days per year.

Impeachment proceedings of Judge Wright responsible for his resignation.

Measures of Interest to Labor Which Failed of Enactment.

Immigration law with literacy test failed of passage over President's veto by four votes.

Convict labor regulations for domestic and foreign commerce, failed in Senate.

Child labor bill failed in Senate.

Employers' liability and workmen's compensation, for government and railroad employes failed in the House and Senate.

Bureau of labor safety bill failed in Senate.

Conservation bill with eight-hour proviso failed in Senate.

Hours of service law with minimum penalty provisions failed in Senate.

Eight-hour law for telegraphers on railroads failed in House.

Old-age pension, continuation and retirement bills not advanced.

Employment bureau measure reported, but late for action.

Safer building regulations for the district of Columbia failed in Senate.

Safety appliance bills on railroads not advanced.

Impeachment proceedings of Judge Dayton dismissed in House.

The report concludes with this statement:

"During the period of Congress that this report covers, the greatest cooperation among the officers and members of the organizations was given. Without their vigilance, activity and splendid response to all the appeals for aid and assistance, it would have been impossible to have made these remarkable legislative advances in the interest of the people of the United States.

"It is hoped that the material facts contained in this report will encourage and stimulate our fellow workers for still greater achievements in the future. It must not be overlooked that it will require the greatest vigilance to retain what is already gained."

ORGANIZE JITNEY DRIVERS.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 3.—General President Tobin of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers states that his organization has chartered about 100 local unions of chauffeurs or jitney bus operators, in Fort Worth the local has a membership of 200 and in Los Angeles 1,000. Each averages about $12 per day, and that it takes about $1.65 for oil and gasoline.

Discussing the future of organization, President Tobin says:

"The large automobile manufacturing companies in Detroit and Toledo are at the present time facing a problem which they do not like to solve, and that is the solution to this problem in the jitney bus, that is selling their second hand cars at a low price. There are other cities where jitney busses are now operating, the bitterest opposition has been put up against organization by the street car employes, viz: Los Angeles, Indianapolis, and several other cities, where the organizations will put the street car men. With the operation of the jitney bus it may have the tendency to get the street car companies to recognize the necessity of working hand in hand with their employes, and to seek the assistance of the street car men's union."

ENFORCE 11-HOUR DAY.

New Bern, N. C., April 3.—The local plant of the John L. Roper Lumber company has issued an order that the hours be extended from 10 to 11. That the employes of this non-union concern may make more money, as well as wages. Superintendent Sutton, in his announcement, states:

"The rate per day you will adjust so that the same amount will be paid for 11 hours that you are now paying for 10 hours at this date. From this you will understand from the following illustration: That a man who has been rated at $1.25 with the discount of 10 per cent making his present rate $1.12 1-2 per day of 10 hours, that the same rate will stand, but that more hours will be worked, thus entitling an employe rated as above $1.12½ for 11 hours."

The "10 per cent discount" mentioned by the superintendent refers to a 10 per cent wage reduction, last October.

RETAIN EIGHT-HOUR CLAUSE.

Portland, Ore., April 2.—Attorney General Brown has blocked the attempt of the Portland Steel Foundry company, which has the contract for a steel bridge, to violate the eight-hour law. The official ruled:

"If the material for the bridge is already manufactured and on the open market when the contract is signed, it can be used without regard to hours of labor taken in its manufacture, but if it is manufactured after the contract is signed it must be made under the eight-hour requirements, whether the work is performed in Oregon or elsewhere."

O. K. SEMI-MONTHLY PAY.

Nashville, Tenn., April 2.—The house committee on labor favors the bill providing for a semi-monthly pay day on railroads. This measure is being supported by the State Federation of Labor and the railroad brotherhoods. Railway managers insist that the law would increase clerk costs from $30,000 to $35,000 a year on some roads. The workers point to the railroads opposing the bill is the vast sums that are now placed on interest by the companies by the delay in the bill, to the workers for two months, in some cases.

WANTS INDETERMINATE LAW.

Columbus, O., April 3.—Warden Thomas of the state penitentiary appealed to the senate judiciary committee not to favor the Cassidy bill, which repeals the indeterminate sentence law. He said the act had done wonders in improving discipline in the penitentiary and pointed to the Mansfield reformatory, the model penal institution in the world, as an argument against repeal. The indeterminate sentence law, he says, has been applied to the Mansfield institution.

TEACHER-MOTHER WINS.

New York, April 3.—Because Mrs. Bridget C. Peixotti, a public school teacher, became a mother the municipal board of education suspended her April 22, 1913. She was reinstated last January, but since that time has been asking the court to order payment of her salary, dating from the time of her suspension. Last week she won and was handed a check for $4,194.31.

THE SHORTER WORKDAY.

Indianapolis, April 2.—Discussing the anniversary of the eight-hour work day, secured by union miners April 1, 1898, the United Mine Workers' Journal in its last week's issue said:

"We believe that reduction of hours of labor to conform with the greater productive power of the workers, has been aided by modern machinery, modified only by the reasonable demands for more of the good things made possible by the inventions, the ingenuity of the producing class, should be the chief concern of labor.

"We believe that the inauguration of the eight-hour day is the most far-reaching victory the miners have achieved. In celebrating this day it is our intention to extend the benefits of the shorter workday to every part of the country, and then, with our fellow workers, go forward to still further reductions of the hours of work, thus tending to make possible a more equitable distribution of the opportunity for employment and the consequent lessening of the numbers of the unemployed; the ever-standing menace against better remuneration and working conditions for those employed.

"Abolition of child labor, limitation of the exploitation of the labor of women, and reductions of hours of employment for all; these are the most important reforms to which organized labor must bend every effort. For with these reforms are coupled the possibility for employment of the adult man, the natural breadwinner and producer."

MODIFY ANTI-INJUNCTION LAW.

Washington, April 3.—President Gompers has issued a circular to officers of state federations of labor and city central bodies in which is inclosed a model law which provides for "all" the A. F. of L. executive council and its attorneys will regulate the issuance of injunctions within the various states and will also remove labor organizations from state anti-trust laws.

Unionists in several states are now endeavoring to secure the adoption of this law, the principles of which were accepted by the Massachusetts legislature, last year, and which include provisions found in the Clayton law, the most notable of which is: "The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce." Copies of this model law may be secured by writing to the A. F. of L. offices.

WILL TEST LAW.

Salt Lake City, Utah, April 3.—It is claimed that the legality of the 6 o'clock closing law, passed by the last legislature, will be tested the day it goes into effect, May 15. The law includes "all mercantile and commercial houses, either wholesale or retail." Exception is made where a firm deals in foodstuffs, medicine and other provisions of a perishable nature. This exemption will be labeled "class legislation" and the bogey man presented to the court by keen lawyers.

ASK STATE LITERACY TEST.

Albany, N. Y., April 2.—Railroad brotherhood representatives are urging the passage of a bill which would prohibit the employment by railroads of persons who cannot read, write or write or understand schedules and time cards. Representatives of railroads intend to fight this and certain amendments, which the brotherhood officials accepted.

REGULATE "LOAN SHARKS."

Cincinnati, April 2.—In urging the state legislature to pass laws regulating "loan sharks," and providing jail punishments for these usurers, the grand jury says: "Many crimes are the direct result of their perpetrators having first become victims of these 'loan sharks.'"

ANTI-NIGHT WORK LAW UPHELD

Albany, N. Y., April 2.—The state court of appeals has upheld the women's anti-night work law, passed in 1913, and which prohibits women working in factories between the hours of 10 p. m. and 6 a. m. A New York city printing establishment made a test case after being found guilty in a lower court of violating the law. The court of appeals sustains the conviction, and holds that night work in factories is so detrimental to the health of women, that it ought to be prohibited for their own sakes and in the interest of the public welfare. It was also declared that such work should be prevented "not only to protect the health of the women themselves, but to guard against their becoming mothers of deficient children."

In sustaining the right of a printing company that night work, under proper conditions, would not be injurious to women, the court replied that the legislature is the proper place to make changes in the law and that the court of appeals can only consider the question of whether the law making legislature has the right to pass a law prohibiting women working nights.

To this question, the court gave an affirmative answer.

ERROR FOUND IN WAGE LAW.

Little Rock, Ark., April 3.—The many uncertainties of setting wages by law is again shown by the discovery that in the revision of the word "mercantile" in the new minimum wage law is liable to invalidate this enactment, which has just been approved by the state legislature and signed by Gov. Hays. It was originally read: "That no female shall be employed in any manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment, laundry," etc.

In the bill signed by the governor, the important word "manufacturing" is missing. No one knows how it happened, but it is agreed that in the colonial times in the state the decision would be made it possible for department stores and other business houses of this state to be exempt. Officials insist that other sections of the bill permit them to operate, but the omission means much litigation.

JUDGE DAYTON NOT FORGOTTEN.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 3.—Although the judiciary committee of the house of delegates of representatives has vetoed the plan to impeach Federal Judge Dayton, the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly will not let the matter drop. The union's executive board has been instructive, by an unanimous vote, to keep agitating the fight. The Majority, official newspaper of the Wheeling unionists, says: "That a motion to impeach him will be made before Congress on the first day of the new session is already decided."

NO COSSACKS IN NEW JERSEY.

Trenton, N. J., April 3.—There will be no militia company created in New Jersey—this year at least, for the trade unionists have defeated the proposal to establish the vicious Cossack system now in vogue in Pennsylvania.

No bill has aroused workers more than this proposal of Senator Ramsey, and every member of the state senate has been visited by delegations who advoiced their views in no uncertain terms. The agitation proved effective, and the bill was defeated by the narrow margin of one vote.

PASS COMPENSATION LAW.

Oklahoma City, Okla., April 2.—The state legislature, in its closing days, passed a workmen's compensation bill. The most important feature of the new law is the compulsory provision. The law will be administered by an industrial commission. Unionists attempted to include the state insurance feature, similar to the Ohio plan, and this is predicted that one of the first amendments presented to the next legislature will be this proposal.

INCREASE WAGES.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 3.—Hod carriers in this city have secured a uniform daily wage rate of $2.80 for all tenders. Heretofore the rates have been irregular, according to the classes of work performed.

ENGINEERS REDUCE HOURS.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 2.—Wages have been raised 5 cents per day and hours reduced to eight per day, with three shifts in the 24, by the union engineers employed by the Kalbitzer Packing company.

FAVORS STATE GUARANTEES

New York, April 3.—"Let the compensation law alone" demands the New York Tribune in an editorial protesting against the plan to permit employers to settle damage claims with their workers.

In defending the present law, the Tribune says:

"By the passage of this law the state guaranteed that it would be the adjuster of damages arising out of the injuries to workingmen in the course of their employment. The system naturally has been objected to as a great strain, but it has not broken down, as has been alleged. Slight inquiry by the legislature would disclose that, while at first the commission had a great mass of damage cases piling up, conditions in that respect have been steadily growing better, until at present there is no undue number of cases awaiting disposal.

"For New York state, under these circumstances, to go over to a system which would permit dickering over the amount of damages for an injury between the employe and the employer would be to betray the interests of the workingmen.

"The employers have all the advantages on their side. If the workmen have not got all they want the state they are not much better off than they were in the old days of pernicious court damage cases and ambulance chasing lawyers who hogged most of the belated awards."

DEPEND ON PUBLICITY.

Welkes-Barre, Pa., April 2.—At a meeting of over a score of railroad brotherhood representatives this city, plans were perfected to conduct a publicity campaign against the repeal of the full crew law. In the resolutions adopted, these workers state: "Freight trains of 29 years ago consisted of a locomotive with an average tonnage of 35 tons, or a total tonnage of 1,400 tons; these trains were manned by a conductor and three brakemen and one flagman, who found it very difficult to control these 1,400 tons of moving mountain pressure.

"The railroaders show that the companies have been continually increasing the size of the trains, until today a train consists of an average of 75 cars, and 70 tons to the car, or a total of 5,250 tons in the train, "thereby increasing approximately the number of trainmen 40 per cent, and the tonnage 300 per cent."

PASS WIDOWS' PENSION BILL.

Albany, N. Y., April 2.—Both houses of the legislature have passed the widows' pension bill. In urging his colleagues to approve the measure, Assemblyman Arthur E. Smith said:

"When the family provider dies the mother goes to the police court or the charity institutions and the children are committed to the latter. The mother witnesses the separation of herself and her children. They are torn away from her and made to live in custody of the institution, and nothing is left for her but to go into the factory and make a living.

"What must be her idea of the state policy when she sees her children taken away in the process of law, particularly when she remembers that for several years she has been left into the valley of death that a new pair of eyes might look out upon the world?"

REJECT COMPENSATION LAW.

Nashville, Tenn., April 1.—A committee of the state senate has voted to reject the proposed workmen's compensation bill introduced by Senator Hoskins. The bill provides for awards for liability on the basis of 60 per cent of a wages paid, and a maximum of $4,000 in case of death. "Business men" is one of the reasons why the bill was rejected, despite efforts of its friends to show that the proposal was the most sensible sort of insurance for business men. T. F. Bonner, of the Tennessee Manufacturers' association, said this compensation favored compensation, but—

"Business is bad. I see no need or demand for the bill, which," declared Mr Bonner, "takes away responsibility of the employe, tends to curb his ambition, and, in effect, classes him as a slave."

OPPOSE CONVICT-MADE GOODS.

Springfield, Ill., April 3.—A bill before the legislature provides penalties for the printing and binding of school books by the inmates of Joliet penitentiary in addition to the state printing and binding of school books by the inmates of Joliet penitentiary in addition to the state legislative board, consisting of the State Federation of Labor, railroad brotherhoods, Women's Trade Union league, State Teachers' association and State Educational and Co-operative union. These workers declare there is more involved than the labor question, and that the competition of convict labor. They insist there is a moral issue, and declare that the children of Illinois must not be made dependent upon convicts for their education.

"FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM."

Portland, Ore., April 3.—"Fighting for freedom" is the reason the firm of Lipman, Wolfe & Co. gave unionists for not recognizing organized labor. The workers ask this concern to pay a living wage, and the claims of "freedom" have been passed by the publication of rules governing the Association of the Lipman, Wolfe & Co. Employes, which provides: All employes shall belong to the association; all dues and assessments shall be deducted in the office from the salary of each member, and that only heads of departments shall hold office in the association.

KEY MEN ASK MEDIATION.

St. Louis, April 3.—Local officers of the Switchmen's Mutual Aid association, communicated with the Federal department of labor regarding the difficulties of the switchmen in the Wabash railroad, which is charged with dismissing nearly two score telegraphers because of their union affiliations. It is further charged that a union member was recently robbed of a list of 100 names of union members and that 40 of these men, since, April 1, were discharged. The union has voted to strike if conditions are not remedied.

URGE CHILD CONSERVATION.

Newburgh, N. Y., April 2.—"In our country we hear much talk about conservation. By conservation we ordinarily think of keeping intact our timber land and water courses, which are a source of power. A vast amount of work and money has been expended in this direction, but what about conservation of the boys and girls?" asked Mrs. Jessie Lonier Farge, in a speech in this city.

WOULD UNDERMINE SCHOOLS

Chicago, April 3.—"Follow the lead of Europe" in educational matters is advice the Chicago Commercial club is endeavoring to have newspapers of Illinois give to the people, says the weekly bulletin of the State Federation of Labor, which declares the club continues to scatter throughout the state free plates of special articles in which the school system of the various European countries are highly eulogized.

"Thus the effort to undermine the present public school system goes on," continues the bulletin. "The purpose is to split the schools into two separately managed and controlled systems. One of these is to embrace along the lines of the present elementary schools, followed by high schools, to which the children of the well-to-do will attend. The other is to consist of a new system of schools to which working children will be compelled to attend. These are to be called 'continuation schools,' in which the course of study is to be based upon the particular job which the unfortunate child has been forced by circumstances to accept.

"It matters not what ambitions the boys or girls may have. It is the unfortunate enough to have had to leave school at the age of 14 years, who is to be forced into a job regardless of what the job may be or what the child or its parents may desire.

"The Commercial club of Chicago claims that it is 'following' the public school system and to such class divisions among its children that European countries have resorted. But—think of what is happening in Europe today! The people of Illinois will hardly be so 'follow the lead of Europe' just now."

UNIONIST COMPARES WAGES.

Boston, April 3.—While testifying before the arbitration board considering wage demands of Bay State Street railway employes, Business Agent Hudson of the Engineers' union compared building trades wages in 1839, when the nine-hour day was the usual rule, with wages in 1915, when the 44-hour week generally prevails.

His comparison follows: Bricklayer's wage in 1839, $1.50; and the 1915 wage second carpenters' $15.12, $24.20; bricklayer, $20.16, $28.80; building excavator, $10.50, $13.50; hod carriers, $12.15, $16.20; cement worker, $12.15, $27.50; elevator worker, $13.50, $26.40; hoisting and portable engineers, $15, $27.50; freestone cutters, $15, $27.50; granite cutter, $15.50, $20.90; iron worker, $15, $27.50; lather, $15, $28.60; plasterer, $20.64, $28.60; roofer, $22.50, $27.50; painter, $13.50, $22; sheet metal worker, $14.54, $24.20; steamfitter, $18, $26; layer, $18, $24.20; roofer, $15, $24.20, electrician, $15, $24.20.

The arbitration board will hold for the Boston district, but lower wages prevail in certain outside sections of the state.

THIS COUNTRY LEADS.

New York, April 3.—Secretary Owen Lovejoy of the National Child Labor committee has received the following questionable "honor" of leading the world in at least one respect. In a statement on the subject of child labor, he says:

"Greed for underpaid child labor has raised the death rate in industry in this country above that of fighting extent. In this respect the United States leads every other country on earth.

"Hundreds of thousands of women and children are brought in with their fresh young lives to swell the labor power of men, the whole family doesn't earn any more than the man did alone when he was paid, and allowed to enter the field against him. In the southern cotton mills children of 10 and 12 years are employed in direct competition with their fathers. There can be only one result. At the age of 21 the father's wage man is earning only 9 cents an hour."

SAYS TEST LAW IS "CRUELTY."

Albany, N. Y., April 2.—The state senate voted down, 30 to 19, the anti-day-rest-in-seven law, ignoring the protests of the minority that it be heard. The senate also killed the bill by the law be repealed, and insisted that it was "cruelty" to a laborer to prevent him from working as many hours as he wanted to, "regardless of what labor organizations say." The labor organization for that matter—whether religious or charitable or what they may be—is opposed to the bill, declaring: "A man should be permitted to work 12 hours a day, if he wants to. We believe in giving the opportunities of the industrious and energetic who want to establish independence for themselves by working long hours."

VETOES DIRECT LEGISLATION.

Salt Lake City, Utah, April 3.—Governor Spry has vetoed the initiative and referendum bill, passed by the last legislature, on the ground that it "is wholly unnecessary, since the people of this state, if they desire any measure of a general nature enacted into law, may petition the legislature for such action." Although he also made to a provision which, the governor claims, would give the supreme court jurisdiction over acts of the state constitution. Many friends of direct legislation believe that the veto was thrown around the vetoed bill that would make its effectiveness almost nil, and that the governor is glad not provide for direct legislation.

CITY READY TO AID CHILDREN.

Philadelphia, April 3.—Superintendent of schools Ashhurst, in his report of child labor law opponents that this city is not prepared to take up the work, and that children will be forced into the school room if the state legislature passes the child labor law now pending.

Those who state that the establishing of continuation schools for working children between 14 and 16 years old, is not practical, are either not conversant with the law or willfully so, or are maliciously distorting the true facts. Every director of education in the state has approved the bill, and the superintendent.

"MOVIE" OPERATORS STRIKE.

Nashville, Tenn., April 2.—Members of the recently organized Moving Picture Operators' union are on strike in this city. These workers charge they are being discriminated against and demand recognition of their organization.

ORGANIZE WOMEN.

Minneapolis, Minn., April 3.—The Stockholders' union of this city has started an organizing campaign among the women employed in this industry.